

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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O 141425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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S E C R E T KUWAIT 3850

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR DEPASSTSEC SOBER

ISA FOR ASSTSEC MCAULIFFE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: RADAR COMPATIBILITY AND EGYPTIAN ADVISERS

REF: (A) STATE 202209, (B) MICOM 122207ZAUG 76, (C) KUWAIT 3804,
(D) KUWAIT 3687

1. WHILE EMBASSY APPRECIATES EFFORTS WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE BEEN MAKING TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF ACCESS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY OBSERVERS SECONDED TO KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE (KADF) TO CLASSIFIED IHAWK INFORMATION, SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REF A HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL VALIDITY IN KUWAIT.

2. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ENCOURAGING OR NOT ENCOURAGING KUWAITIS TO SEND KADF DELEGATION TO OBSERVE RADAR COMPATIBILITY TESTS TO BE CONDUCTED JOINTLY BY ITT AND LITTON IN VAN NUYS AUG 16-27. KADF IS AWARE THAT THESE TESTS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED AND HAS INDICATED ITS DESIRE TO ATTEND. (FYI: WE EXPECT SUCH DEL WOULD BE COMPOSED OF COUPLE OF KUWAITI OFFICERS AND ONE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISER. END FYI) MOREOVER, MOD HAS OFFICIALLY RAISED QUESTION OF COMPATIBILITY OF TPS-32

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RADARS TO TSQ-73 SYSTEM (REF C). REFUSAL TO EXTEND INVITATION

WOULD BE INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO KUWAITIS AND, MOREOVER, WOULD AROUSE EVEN GREATER SUSPICION THAN THEY ALREADY HARBOR REGARDING PROBLEM OF COMPATIBILITY WHICH THEY HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE EXISTS.

3. THEIR SUSPICIONS WOULD BE MAGNIFIED A HUNDREDFOLD IF EMBASSY TOLD KADF THAT "MICOM WILL MONITOR TESTS AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND ANYONE AT THIS STAGE" AS SUGGESTED BY PARA 2 REF A. FRANKLY SPEAKING, KUWAITIS HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN US MILITARY ADVICE - AS THEIR INTENTION TO GO COMMERCIAL ON THE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES - AND SUCH A SUGGESTION WOULD BE RECEIVED MOST UNFAVORABLY. IN FACT, ONE OF EMBASSY/USLOK'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IS TO RESTORE KUWAITI CONFIDENCE IN US MILITARY AND THIS PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR AIM.

4. IN ANTICIPATION OF WASHINGTON INABILITY TO RESOLVE ACCESS QUESTION AT THIS TIME, USLOK HAD SOUGHT TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY WITH MICOM POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING TESTS. IN REF B, CDRMICOM INDICATES THIS WOULD RESULT IN \$30,000 INCREASE IN COST (FYI: KUWAIT IS PAYING FOR THESE TESTS, BY THE WAY. END FYI.) AND RECOMMENDS AGAINST POSTPONEMENT. HOWEVER, REF B DOES PROPOSE "SECOND MINIMAL COST ALTERNATIVE" WHICH WOULD BE TO HAVE ITT AND LITTON PRESENT DETAILED BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS ON AUG 30, 31 AND SEPT 1. ACCORDING TO MICOM, THIS WOULD PROVIDE OBSERVERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE TPS-32 INTERFACE AND OPERATE WITH TSQ-73. WE BELIEVE THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD PROVIDE TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM IF BRIEFINGS COULD BE CONDUCTED ON NONCLASSIFIED BASIS - AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY THEY COULD NOT BE SO STRUCTURED GIVEN THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION ALREADY KNOWN TO KADF ON THIS QUESTION WITHOUT ANY CLASSIFIED DATA HAVING BEEN PROVIDED. SUCH DETAILED BRIEFINGS WOULD PROBABLY SATISFY KUWAITIS AND, AT LEAST, USG WOULD BE SPARED BEING PLACED IN AWKWARD POSITION AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT WE ARE PRESENTLY AWAITING MOD DECISION ON CRUCIAL FMS CASE UCY INVOLVING \$42 MILLION COMMITMENT BY GOK (REF C). IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR IHAWK SYSTEM DEPLOYMENT THAT GOK MEET AUG 31 DEADLINE SET FOR SIGNATURE OF THIS CASE. GESTURE OF REFUSING TO INVITE KADF TO VAN NUYS COULD BE REGARDED AS OFFENSIVE AND HAVE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON UCY DECISION.

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5. EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED ABOUT REFERENCE TO IMPACT OF GOK'S ALLEGED DECISION TO PURCHASE SOVIET ARMS AND POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF LIMITED NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS ON QUESTION OF ACCESS OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ADVISERS TO CLASSIFIED IHAWK INFORMATION. WHILE WE CAN IMAGINE SOME POTENTIAL CONNECTIONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPLANATION OF RATIONALE BEHIND THIS REFERENCE. FULFILLMENT OF SOVIET ARMS DEAL - IF IT DOES REALLY DEVELOP - IS UNDOUBTEDLY STILL LONG WAY DOWN THE PIKE, AND THE ARRIVAL OF SOVIET

ADVISERS, IF ANY, EVEN FARTHER AWAY.

6. WE ARE MORE EASILY ABLE TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM OF TIMING OF THIS DECISION ON ACCESS AND A USG PREFERENCE FOR DELAY ON THAT BASIS. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL HAVE TO FACE PROBLEM OF EGYPTIAN ADVISERS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER RELATIVELY SOON, IF IHAWK DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS NOT TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. WE CAN POSSIBLY HOLD OUT ANOTHER COUPLE OF MONTHS, IF PROSPECTS FOR GETTING ACCESS TO EGYPTIAN ADVISERS APPEAR FAVORABLE, BUT CERTAINLY NO LONGER. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE WOULD NEED TO GET OVER THIS PRESENT HURDLE OF COMPATIBILITY TESTS SOME WAY OR OTHER.

7. ACTION RECOMMENDED: A. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DOD INSTRUCT MICOM TO ARRANGE FOR BRIEFINGS MENTIONED PARA 3 REF B ON UNCLASSIFIED BASIS (FYI: THIS FACT NEED NOT BE REVEALED TO KUWAITIS. END FYI.)

B. THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO MINDEF UNDERSEC'S LETTER (REF D) NOT LATER THAN AUG 16 WITH INVITATION TO MOD TO SEND OBSERVERS TO ATTEND ITT/LITTON BRIEFINGS ON OPERATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS TO BE HELD AUG 30, 31 AND SEPT 1 AT VAN NUYS, CALIF. MAESTRONE

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